

INCOMING TELEGRAM

(7) Department of State

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 407, BONN PRIORITY 362, INFORMATION
LONDON 276, PARIS 287, MOSCOW 267, POLAD USAREUR 232.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSSEL AND MCGUIRE.

RE BERLIN 391 DEPT, 347 BONN.

EARLY THIS MORNING EAST GERMAN BORDER POLICE UNLOADED FENCING AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIAL ON ROAD TO STEINSTUECKEN AND COMMENCED ERECTION WIRE FENCE ON BOTH FLANKS STEINSTUECKEN ACCESS ROUTE AT SOVONE/WEST BERLIN BOUNDARY. EAST GERMANS PRESUMABLY COMPLETING BORDER BARRIERS IN THIS PREVIOUSLY OPEN AREA TO PREVENT REFUGEE FLIGHT. WHEN WIRE BARRIERS INSTALLED, THEY WOULD EQUALLY WELL FENCE IN STEINSTUECKEN RESIDENTS IF EAST GERMANS TAKE FINAL STEP OF STRETCHING WIRE BARRIER ACROSS 8-FOOT ACCESS ROAD. AS YET EAST GERMAN INTENTIONS RE ACCESS NOT CLEAR. LIKELY TIME FOR ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD BE EARLY HOURS ON A SUNDAY MORNING WHEN NEARLY ALL RESIDENTS RETURNED HOME FROM WEST BERLIN.

ON AUGUST 31, STEINSTUECKEN REP OF ZEHLENDORF MUNICIPALITY WAS TOLD DURING CALL AT EAST BERLIN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR THAT SEPTEMBER TRANSIT PASSES FOR WEST BERLIN TRADESMEN WOULD NO LONGER BE HANDLED BY PREVIOUS INFORMAL PROCEDURE, BUT THAT WRITTEN REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO VOLKSPOLIZEI PRESIDIU. VOPO AT ENTRANCE TO STEINSTUECKEN, ALTHOUGH AWARE OF EXPIRATION MONTHLY TRANSIT PASSES, HAVE NOT INTERFERED WITH ACCESS WEST. BERLIN TRADESMEN USING EXPIRED PASSES.

LIGHTNER

Note: Relayed OSD, JCS, Army Navy Air & C, White House

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